

**CONTROL CHANNEL TO ENABLE A LOW POWER MODE IN A
WIDEBAND WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A wireless multi-carrier communication system having designated control sub-channels (402) that enable a receiving device (106) to operate in a low power decoding mode. A sending device (104) may send control or payload information via the control sub-channels. The receiving device (106) operates in a low-power decoding mode to decode the control sub-channels, yielding the control or payload information. If the sending device has payload information directed to the receiving device that can not fit within the control sub-channels, it sends the information to the receiving device in one or more payload sub-channels (404). The receiving device operates in a second, generally higher power decoding mode to decode the payload sub-channels, yielding the payload information.

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